

**IAN SHANAHAN, FORMER LECTURER IN PERFORMANCE AND COMPOSITION, MUSIC DEPARTMENT,
SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY**

Ian Shanahan (born 13/6/1962 at Camperdown, NSW, Australia) is a composer, performer (recorders, trombone), improviser and educator. Ian enrolled in 1980 for the Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Sydney, completing a double major in music and pure mathematics; he graduated in 1986 with first-class honours and the University Medal. Ian's composition teachers were Eric Gross, Peter Sculthorpe and Ian Fredericks (for computer music). Under the supervision of Anne Boyd, Ian completed during March 2002 a PhD degree (in composition) at the same institution, where he is also a part-time lecturer in orchestration, composition and twentieth-century harmony. In February 1996, Ian Shanahan was appointed lecturer in performance and composition in the Music Department of the School of Contemporary Arts at the University of Western Sydney.

From 1988 to 1992, Ian was President of the **Fellowship of Australian Composers [FAC]** (Australia's national composers' organisation) and Secretary-Treasurer of the Australian Branch of the **International Society for Contemporary Music**. In 1986, and again in 1990, Ian was the Australian delegate to the annual **Asian Composers' League Conference/Festival**. He was also a member of the editorial panel of the FAC's official journal, **Ossia**; a CD which he co-produced, **Ossia (Volume 1)**, was released in 1992.

Ian's compositions – most of which are now commercially available on CD under the Evasound, Broad Music, MOVE and Sidereal labels – have received several awards and numerous performances both locally and internationally, to widespread acclaim. For instance, his recent work **[p]s(t)ellor/mnême** won the inaugural Sydney Spring International Festival of New Music Composition Award (1997). Ian was one of only two Australians selected to be a Composer Fellow at the inaugural **Pacific Music Festival** (Sapporo, Japan, 1990).

In addition to his compositional activities, Ian has been active as a self-taught recorder player and promoter of new music for this instrument. He has commissioned composers (both within Australia and overseas) to write for him, and has given many performances, workshops and recordings of their works – as well as lecturing, broadcasting and writing widely about the rich possibilities of the recorder. Solo performances have been given by Ian under the auspices of the 1988 **Blue Mountains Festival**, the **New Music Conference** (Brisbane, 1990), the 1994, 1996 and 1997 **Sydney Improvisation Festivals**, and **New Music Forum** (Melbourne, 1995); he has also appeared with renowned new-music ensembles such as **austraLYSIS**, **Symeron** and **ELISION**. During 1987, Ian was invited as a guest composer/performer to the **Asian Composers' Forum** in Sendai, Japan, where he gave a lecture-recital dealing primarily with 'extended techniques' for the recorder. In 1988, he was part of the Australian contingent – the only musician – that travelled to Bologna, Italy to celebrate the ninth centenary of Bologna University. At both of these events, he gave highly lauded concerts of contemporary Australian recorder music.

Although he specialises in post-1960 recorder music and research into new instrumental capabilities, Ian enjoys regular forays into vernacular, classical, and early musics: he has been a member of the **Van Diemen's Bush Band**, **Plectra**, and **The Renaissance Players**. Ian also played trombone with the **Sydney University Orchestra** for ten years, and blew his horn with a groovy band at St Paul's Anglican Church, Castle Hill; he was a founding chorister with **The Contemporary Singers** during the mid to late 1980s.

Ian has recorded and produced several radio programmes that explore diverse aspects of new music; he has also written a number of scholarly articles for various publications and has guest co-edited **Sounds Australian Journal** twice. Outside of music, Ian has a great passion for chess problems – he is a Fellow of the **British Chess Problem Society** – and numerous other intellectual pursuits.